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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

**SECRET**

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-64470) (S)

DATE: APR 21 1960

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (105-27651) (S)

#211326  
Classified by SPABJA/604  
Declassify on: OADR 3/26/85

SUBJECT: LEONID AFANASIEVICH KOVALEV  
IS-R

SP8 MAC/KSL  
9/20/94

Re NY airtel, 4/15/60, captioned as above.

On 4/11/60, [redacted] 160 Claremont Ave., NYC, advised SA RICHARD W. HILL that the subject had telephonically contacted him on that date and told [redacted] that he had just returned from the USSR and wished to meet [redacted] for dinner on 4/12/60. Subject requested that [redacted] contact ANNETTE EPSTEIN, since he did not know how to reach her, and invite her to attend this dinner. [redacted] said that he contacted EPSTEIN and she agreed to meet with KOVALEV (S) and him. (S)

OTHER 4

OTHER 1B,1C,4

On 4/13/60, [redacted] furnished the following information to SAS RICHARD W. HILL and ARTHUR H. SEIDEL:

OTHER 1B,1C

On 4/12/60, KOVALEV (S) arrived at [redacted] residence, 160 Claremont Ave, NYC, at approximately 5:40 p.m. He entered the apartment, exchanged greetings with [redacted] and then casually looked around the apartment. He asked [redacted] if he was now living alone and [redacted] said that he was. They left the apartment, entered the subject's car, which was parked in front of the building, and proceeded to ANNETTE EPSTEIN's residence. (S)

OTHER 1B,1C,4

KOVALEV stated that he had returned from the USSR on 3/28/60. He had visited Moscow, but spent most of his time in Minsk, since his mother was ill and the family was having difficulties during this period of illness. He said that he would now remain in the US for some time, since he had signed a three year contract with the UN (S) (S)

2-Bureau (105-64470) (RM)

1-New York (105-27654) (BORIS I. BUKATYI)  
1-New York (105-20553) (IVAN Y. FEDORCHENKO)  
1-New York (105-27649) (YURIY A. MISHUKOV)  
1-New York (105-37990) (DENNIS HARBER)  
1-New York (105-39681) (AMERICO SALEBE)  
1-New York (134-4214) (INV)  
1-New York (134-4215) (INV)  
1-New York (105-27651) (S)

REC-2 (S)  
105-64470-48  
3 APR 22 1960  
EX 104  
copies made

for review by  
HSCA re 3/14/78  
(See Bufile #105-111-00)

AHS:ngb

32 APR 27 1960

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[SECRET] (u)

[NY 105-27651] (S)

EPSTEIN indicated that the SS UNITED STATES was "her ship". [KOVALEV] asked them if they had seen [FEDORCHENKO] off when he returned to the USSR. They told [KOVALEV] that [FEDORCHENKO] had not invited them to see him off and they, therefore, did not visit him when he left. (S)

While discussing places to have dinner, [KOVALEV] commented that he liked martinis and steaks and suggested that they visit O'Henry's Restaurant in Greenwich Village, to which they all agreed. (S) (u)

During dinner, [KOVALEV] made inquiry concerning "The South American girl" he had previously met at a party. [redacted] identified her as ZENIA RODRIQUES, who was at a party at his apartment in June, 1958. The subject was advised that she is now in Venezuela, her home. [KOVALEV] commented that apparently [FEDORCHENKO] did not appreciate the fact that he had been dancing very closely with this girl and [FEDORCHENKO] had criticized him for this manner of behavior. [KOVALEV] stated that [FEDORCHENKO] was not his superior and was a "stupid peasant" for voicing an objection to [KOVALEV's] behavior. (S) (u) OTHER 1B, 1C, 4

ANNETTE EPSTEIN did not feel well during the course of the dinner and left the table on several occasions. Once, while seating herself, she brushed against [KOVALEV] who commented that it appeared that she liked him. EPSTEIN became embarrassed, but immediately told [KOVALEV] that she had accidentally brushed against him and it did not mean anything. [KOVALEV] became apologetic and went to great lengths to resolve the comment he had made and establish a more congenial and friendly atmosphere. (S) (u)

EPSTEIN asked [KOVALEV] how [YURIY A. MISHUKOV] and [BORIS I. BUKATIY] were, and [KOVALEV] commented that she apparently liked them better than she liked him. [KOVALEV] said that FOREMAN should have a party, which [MISHUKOV], [BUKATIY] and he could attend and meet some of their friends. Since he stressed this several times during the evening, [redacted] agreed to have such a party on 4/16/60. [KOVALEV] approved of this idea and said he would determine if [MISHUKOV] and [BUKATIY] could attend. (S) (u) OTHER 1B, 1C, 4

[SECRET] (S) (u)

[SECRET] (u)

[NY 105-27651] (S)

They also discussed exchanging [Russian and English] (S) OTHER 1B, 1C, 4 lessons and the suggestion was made that [KOVALEV] (S) and EPSTEIN should form a team to exchange lessons and [ ] (S) and [KOVALEV's] wife, RIMMA (S) could do the same. [KOVALEV] (S) said that he would discuss this with his wife to determine if she would be agreeable to such an arrangement. (X)

Upon leaving O'Henry's Restaurant, [KOVALEV] (S) suggested that they go somewhere and have some beer. They went to the West End Cafe on Broadway near Columbia University. Enroute, [KOVALEV] (S) asked them to sing some American folk songs, which they did, since he enjoyed them. (X)

After arriving at the West End Cafe, they discussed politics and [KOVALEV] (S) was interested in the [American electoral] (S) system. They explained the [operation of conventions] (S) and the [electoral system] (S) to KOVALEV, who stated "it is all very silly. (S) Isn't it". (X)

[ ] (S) being interested in palmistry as an amusement, then started to read [KOVALEV's] (S) palm. As he was doing so he told [KOVALEV] (S) that his palm reflected that he was very interested in women, upon which [KOVALEV] (S) withdrew his hand and said that he was not a woman chaser. (X) OTHER 1B, 1C, 4

They spent approximately 45 minutes at the West End Cafe and then [KOVALEV] (S) drove them home. Enroute to [ ] (S) OTHER 1B, 1C, 4 residence, [KOVALEV] (S) said that he would like to take a tour of Columbia University, with [ ] (S) as a guide. [KOVALEV] (S) did not specify exactly what he would like to see at Columbia University. (S) [KOVALEV] (S) then dropped [ ] (S) at his residence at approximately 11:30 p.m. (X)

On 4/11/60, EPSTEIN telephonically advised SA RICHARD (S) OTHER 1B, 1C, 4 W. HILL that [LEONID KOVALEV] (S) had contacted [ ] (S) that date and had invited [ ] (S) and herself to have dinner with him on 4/12/60. (X)

[ - 4 - ] (S) (u)  
[SECRET]

911-12401

[SECRET] (S)(u)

[NY 105-27651] (S)

OTHER 1B, 1C, 4

On 4/14/60, EPSTEIN was interviewed by SAS ARTHUR H. SEIDEL and RICHARD W. HILL at her residence. She stated that [KOVALEV] and [ ] arrived at her apartment at 6:00 p.m., 4/12/60. [KOVALEV] jokingly told her that he was now a Catholic and showed her a St. Christopher medal on his key chain. After some small talk the three then entered [KOVALEV's] car and drove down the West Side Drive to Greenwich Village. During this time, [KOVALEV] began to kid EPSTEIN about her relationship with (S) IVAN Y. FEDORCHENKO and intimated that he had been her lover. This irritated EPSTEIN, who denies such a relationship, and (S) [KOVALEV] then asked her if ZENIA RODRIQUES was still around. EPSTEIN explained that RODRIQUES was a Venezuelan who had attended a party at [ ] apartment in June, 1958 (NY letter to Bureau 2/17/60). At this party, [FEDORCHENKO] had (S) criticized [KOVALEV] for holding RODRIQUES too close while dancing. EPSTEIN told [KOVALEV] that RODRIQUES was in Venezuela. [KOVALEV] (S) then stated that [FEDORCHENKO] had no right to criticize him re. RODRIQUES, that [FEDORCHENKO] was a "stupid peasant" and had no authority over [KOVALEV] (S)

They proceeded to O'Henry's Restaurant, 345 6th Ave., NYC, in Greenwich Village, and [ ] and [KOVALEV] (S) had steak dinners; EPSTEIN did not eat, as she did not feel well, but had four cognacs. EPSTEIN then asked [KOVALEV] if (S) he had seen [YURI MISHUKOV and BORIS BUKATIY]. [KOVALEV] then (S) began to chide her, saying that EPSTEIN liked [YURI and BORIS] (S) better than himself and asked her if she liked them better than [FEDORCHENKO]. (S) EPSTEIN then stated that she thought (S) [BUKATIY] was quite good looking, ignoring the reference to (S) [FEDORCHENKO]. [KOVALEV] then stated that FOREMAN should have a party and he would bring [MISHUKOV and BUKATIY] with him. The three then agreed that FOREMAN would furnish his apartment for a party on Saturday night 4/16/60, and that EPSTEIN and [ ] would invite some of their friends. (S)

OTHER 1B, 1C, 4

EPSTEIN said that she had been going to the ladies - room frequently at the restaurant and that upon coming back to the table and sitting, her leg had accidentally brushed against [KOVALEV's]. [KOVALEV] (S) called her attention to it and (S)

[ - 5 - ] (S)(u)  
[SECRET]



[SECRET] (u)

[NY 105-27651] (S)

that she liked him. EPSTEIN said that she was quite embarrassed (OTHER 1B, 1C, 4) and angry and blurted out to [ ] that "I told you I never should have come, I never could stand him". [KOVALEV] became (S) very apologetic and wanted to analyze what had happened in order to show his good intentions. EPSTEIN then remained quiet and took little part in the discussion while [KOVALEV] continued attempting to keep a spirit of friendship going. EPSTEIN stated that it was obvious that [KOVALEV] was not enjoying himself. He appeared very self-conscious and his protestation of friendship seemed hollow. He made jokes which neither [ ] nor EPSTEIN thought funny and seemed to be forcing his friendship on them. He remarked several times that all Russian men are crude peasants, but, in effect, must be excused because their hearts are in the right place. (S)

He stated that he had become very Americanized in that he now carried a St. Christopher medal, he has a Chevrolet and dresses as do the Americans. He also said that he was very fond of martinis and steaks. He wants to learn all about American popular music and has a record of FRANK SINATRA and some others. EPSTEIN stated that [KOVALEV] looks like an American except that his hair is longer than the average American's and he speaks with an accent although his English is good. (S)

When [KOVALEV] left the table EPSTEIN and [ ] agreed that [KOVALEV] wanted something from them, his actions were so false, but were unable to decide what. (S)

OTHER 1B, 1C, 4

(S) Even though a very strained atmosphere existed after [KOVALEV's] remark about EPSTEIN brushing against him, he suggested they go some place to have beer. They then drove to the West End Bar, near Columbia University and enroute, [KOVALEV] asked (S) them to sing some American folk songs for him, which they did. At the bar, [KOVALEV] discussed US politics and asked them how (S) the US President was elected. They explained that to him, which he said sounded like a circus and was quite silly. EPSTEIN then remarked that (five men) had put [KROUSHCHEV] (S) in office after [STALIN's] death, which made [KOVALEV] angry. (S) EPSTEIN then remained non-committal during the rest of the discussion of US politics. [KOVALEV] then said to (EPSTEIN) that (S)

[ - 6 - ] (S) (u)  
[SECRET]

[SECRET] (u)

[NY 105-27651] (S)

[she was a history major and would like to see how much she knew about Russian history. She stated that she answered most of his questions correctly.] (S) Also at this bar, [redacted] who is an amateur palmist, began to read [KOVALEV's] palm. FOREMAN told him that he had a good heart, that he has a very strong character, but tended to be crude and that he was a ladies' man. [KOVALEV] pulled his hand away at that point, saying that he was not a woman chaser. (S)

OTHER 1B,1C,4

They agreed that [KOVALEV] (S) and EPSTEIN and [redacted] (S) and [RIMMA KOVALEVA] (S) would exchange Russian and English language lessons. EPSTEIN had told [KOVALEV] (S) that she was planning to enter the Fordham University (Russian Institute) in the fall (S) and, therefore, was interested in taking Russian. In this connection, EPSTEIN stated that [KOVALEV] spoke to her in [Russian] several times during the course of the evening and expressed surprise that she did not speak it. She then related that [KOVALEV and FEDORCHENKO] had taken her home from one of the parties in 1958 and since they had been remarking about the exorbitant rents in America, she had taken them into her mother's apartment, which is spacious and rents for only \$70 per month. They met her mother, who was born in Russia, and speaks native Russian, and conversed with her briefly in that language. (S)

OTHER 1B,1C,4

[KOVALEV] asked EPSTEIN what she was doing now and upon learning that she taught at the public school in the Bronx, where the colored girl received the letter from NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV, asked her if she was responsible for the girl's having written. EPSTEIN thought he was kidding and answered, "Well, the girl wrote the letter". [KOVALEV] made no further comment. (S)

They left the West End Bar in [KOVALEV's] car, dropped [redacted] off at his apartment and proceeded to her apartment, where she shook hands with [KOVALEV] at the door. (S)

OTHER 1B,1C,4

NY  
X SALEBE  
[EPSTEIN stated that she had contacted AMERICO to invite him to the party; he accepted and is to bring a South American friend.] He told her that he had received a (S) (u)

[ - 7 - ] (S) (u)  
[SECRET]

9/11-12/1/62



~~SECRET~~ (u)

[NY-105-27651] (S)

a cable from DENNIS ~~HARBER~~, [his ex-roommate,] from Mexico City, (S) (u) requesting \$100 so that he could travel to NYC. [SALEBE said that he was unable to do this as SALEBE had been in the hospital, after almost having gone blind. EPSTEIN also learned that SALEBE is employed by LOCKHEED at Idlewild Airport, She stated that in her opinion both HARBER and [SALEBE] are (S) (u) homosexuals.] (S)

She recalled that SALEBE, [KOVALEV, MISHUKOV and VADIM (LNU)] had attended a party given by a wealthy society woman during the summer of 1958, which SALEBE had told her about. She stated that SALEBE told her of several such gatherings during the period September, 1958 - summer of 1959, but she could not recall the woman's name. However, SALEBE told her on 4/13/60, that the woman had again contacted him in order to arrange another such party. [This woman planned to visit Russia, at one time, but never did so.] (S)

EPSTEIN and [ ] have volunteered to furnish complete details concerning the 4/16/60, party to the NYO. Detailed information concerning this party will be furnished to the Bureau. (S) (u)

OTHER 1B, 1C, 4

- 8 -  
[SECRET] (S) (u)

(M) 1/4 [SECRET]

105-27651